

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 21-03-011-03-365, a report to the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration. May 6, 2003.

WHY READ THE REPORT

In PY 2000 the Florida Department of Education (FDE) received nearly \$4.6 million from the Department of Labor (DOL) under the Workforce Investment Act's (WIA) Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) Program. Nearly 3,000 participants obtained unsubsidized employment, training, work experience and supportive services. The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI), a nonprofit organization, based in Orange County, contracted with FDE to provide emergency assistance payments to participants.

Migrant and seasonal workers face multiple barriers to achieving economic self-sufficiency. A DOL survey in 2000 found that farmworkers work only about half a year (24 weeks), and typically have only a sixth grade education. Approximately 61 percent have incomes below the poverty level. Since migrant workers can only take time off evenings and weekends, they rarely use One-Stop Career centers. MSFW staff provides most services in the field and relies on community, faith-based, and other nonprofit organizations to provide temporary space and other in-kind support, at no cost to the WIA program.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The audit looked at whether costs claimed by FDE for the period July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001, under the MSFW grant were allowable and followed Office of Management and Budget cost principles and grant guidelines. OIG also looked at whether or not FDE accurately reported and supported performance outcomes.

READ THE FULL REPORT

The full report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2003/21-03-011-03-365.pdf>

MAY 2003

\$713 QUESTIONED IN AUDIT OF DOL GRANT TO FLORIDA MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAM

WHAT OIG FOUND

We reviewed 95 participant files and found that:

- Seven participant files (all from the ALPI site) did not contain sufficient information to show that the workers were eligible for \$713 in vouchers to help them cover costs for water, rent, food and electricity.
- Performance data were accurate and properly supported.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended that the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training:

- Require FDE to develop policies and procedures for properly documenting emergency assistance payments.
- Recover the \$713 in questioned costs.

RESULTS

As a result of the audit, FDE immediately required the ALPI to obtain and keep copies of support documentation, such as state-issued identification cards, and written proof of the participant's last work period. To facilitate photocopying, FDE also directed ALPI to: (1) set up an account to pay organizations for the use of their equipment; and (2) provide the staff responsible for delivering services with digital cameras. The cameras allow staff to photocopy support documentation that can be electronically saved as well as printed in hard form.